(b) the number of youths from rural areas selected and imparted training by the Sports Authority of India under "Catch Them Young" scheme for these games.

(c) the measures taken to train such youths at various levels; and

(d) the budgetary support for such programmes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS, AND THE DEPARTEMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (KUMARI MAMATA BANERJEE): (a) Under the Scheme of all India Rural Sports Tournament, such tournaments are held in 4 groups at 4 different places in the country each year. Various games at national level covering rural areas as well are being organised every year under other schemes of Sports Authority of India e.g. talent scouting and nurturing under Special Area Games, SPDA and NSTC schemes etc.

(b) Around 1750 youth from rural areas have been selected under the various schemes such as SAG, NSTC, SPDA, Boys Companies etc.

(c) The selected boys and girls are placed in residential environment and besides scientific coaching, the SAI incurs expenditure on diet, sports kits, sports equipments competition exposure and academics of these trainees.

(d) During the year 1991—2 the total budgetary support for these programmes is around Rs. 11.50 crores.

Improvement in services of Air India/ Indian Airlines

3140. SHRI INDRAJIT GUPTA:
SHRI MADAN LAL KHURANA:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOUSRISM be pleased to state:

(a) the details of foreign exchange earned and spent during the past two years by the Air India and the Indian Airlines;

(b) whether the services of these airlines have not been improving as compared to other airlines operating in similar air—outes;

(c) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the steps being taken to bring these airlines at part with others in the matters of service to passengers and punctuality?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) The details of foreign exchange earned and spent by Air India and Indian Airlines during the last two years is as under:

	Amount earned (*Rs. in crores*)		*Amount spent* (*Rs. in crores*)	
	1989—90	1990—91	1989—90	1990—91
Air India	841.59	1004.65	749.29	855.43
Indian Airlines	264.04	289.35	363.71	385.43

(b) to (d). Standards of service in both Air India and Indian Airlines are comparable to airlines in this region. However, constant efforts are made by both the airlines to improve punctuality of services and other passenger facilities both inflight and on-ground. Close monitoring of delays is made and immediate remedial steps are taken.

[*Translation*]

Travel Agencies Registered with 'International Air Transport Association'

3141. SHRI RAM SHARAN YADAV: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) the number of travel agencies operating in the country at present;

(b) the number of agencies, out of them, registered with the International Air Transport Association;

(c) whether the Government propose to withdraw the recognition which are not registered with the International Air Transport Association; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) to (d). Government has a system of giving recognition to travel agents, tour operators and tourist transport operators on their satisfying certain norms with a view to ensuring efficient and reliable service to tourists. On the basis of these conditions the number of travel agencies approved as of date are 233. Registration with IATA is one of the conditions for approving of travel agents. However, Government is reviewing the terms and conditions for "recognition" so as to make it simpler and more effective.

[*English*]

Nickel in Chocolates

3142. SHRI VIJAY NAVAL PATIL: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether some researchers have warned that chocolates contain nickel which can affect human health;

(b) if so, the permissible limit of nickel consumption; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to prevent harmful effects of nickel consumption through excess eating of chocolates by children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI D.K. THARADEVI SIDDHARTHA): (a) to (c). Environmental Research Laboratory, Lucknow, which is a small private laboratory, has screened a few samples of chocolates and reported that they show higher nickel content in chocolates. However, the result of samples of chocolate analysed at the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, a permanent research centre under the Indican Council of Medical Research have been found to be in agreement with values reported from Denmark i.e. with a mean figure of 1.26 mg/kg. Latest report of HO has mentioned that there is lack of evidence of a carcinogenic rssk from oral exposure of nickel. In fact, nickel has been shown as an essential trace metal in some plants and bacterial enzymes. Based on this information, the National Institute of Nutrition, Hyderabad, has opined that there is no need to lay down any maximum limit of nickel in chocolate.